

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 AF-06 OPIC-03

ACDA-05 SAJ-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 USIA-06 INRE-00 SY-05 OC-05 A-01 OPR-02 CCO-00

NSCE-00 /099 W

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P R 271426Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3962

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4943

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

REF: A. LISBON 4910 DTG 261443Z AUG 75

B. LISBON 4926 DTG 262135Z AUG 75

C. LISBON 4462 DTG 061708Z AUG 75

SUMMARY: GONCALVES AND FORCES OF LEFT HAVE RECAPTURED THE
INITIATIVE. NEWLY-FORMED LEFTIST REVOLUTIONARY FRONT WILL HOLD
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"UNITARY" DEMONSTRATION IN LISBON TONIGHT. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

HAS ISSUED STATEMENT SUPPORTING REVOLUTIONARY FRONT. GONCALVES AND COMMUNIST SUPPORTERS ARE MOVING TO CONSOLIDATE GAINS OF PAST FEW DAYS AND ARE ATTEMPTING TO LAY BASIS FOR ANOTHER LURCH TO LEFT. COMMUNIST-LINING MORNING PRESS KEEPS ALIVE SPECULATION RE U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN CURRENT CRISIS. VIOLENCE AGAINST LEFT OUTSIDE LISBON CONTINUES. END SUMMARY

1. UNITARY DEMONSTRATIONS: NEWLY-FORMED REVOLUTIONARY FRONT OF LEFTIST GROUPS, INCLUDING COMMUNISTS, WILL STAGE "UNITARY" DEMONSTRATION IN LISBON TONIGHT (AUGUST 27) IN SUPPORT OF CONTINUED ADVANCE OF REVOLUTION ALONG "PROGRESSIVE" LINES. IN ADDITION TO EIGHT FOUNDING MEMBERS OF FRONT (REFTEL A), OTHER FAR LEFT GROUPS -- INCLUDING WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (PRT) AND SECRETARIAT OF REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL OF WORKERS, SOLDIERS AND SAILORS (CRTS) -- HAVE ANNOUNCED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE DEMONSTRATION. HOWEVER, MORE SIGNIFICANT FAR-LEFT GROUPS -- MRPP AND UDP -- MAINTAIN ANTICOMMUNIST STANCES.

2. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SUPPORTS FRONT: TAKING EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE THAT IT IS A GOING CONCERN, COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF FIFTH PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED SERIES OF NEW DECISIONS AUGUST 26, INCLUDING ITS SUPPORT FOR THE FORMATION OF THE REVOLUTIONARY FRONT. COUNCIL ALSO WENT ON RECORD IN SUPPORT OF DECISION BY RULING DIRECTORATE TO RESTRUCTURE REVOLUTIONARY ORGANS OF ARMED FORCES.

3. MORE SPECULATION ON U.S. INTERFERENCE: AUGUST 27 EDITION OF COMMUNIST-LINING "O SECULO" KEPT ALIVE SPECULATION RE AMBASSADOR'S ROLE IN CURRENT POLITICAL CRISIS WITH EDITORIAL CARTOON AND EXTENSIVE COMMENTARY. CARTOON ON THIRD PAGE UNDER CAPTION "AFTER ALL, CARLUCCI SPENT SUNDAY AT THE BEACH..." SHOWED AMBASSADOR IN BATHING SUIT SITTING IN SAND FACING RELAXED SUNBATHERS INCLUDING MELO ANTUNES, VICTOR ALVES, CRESPO, VASCO LOURENCO, AND SOUSA E CASTRO. "JORNAL NOVO" DIRECTOR ARTUR PORTELA FILHO LURKED STEALTHFULLY BEHIND BEACH TENT IN BACKGROUND OBSERVING ALL. ACCOMPANYING STORY UNDER HEADLINE "US INTERFERENCE IN PORTUGUESE POLITICS?" REPEATED SPECULATION RE LINKAGE BETWEEN US SUPPORT FOR ANGOLAN AIRLIFT AND SACKING OF PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES. ARTICLE CITED WASHINGTON POST STORY SUGGESTING SUCH LINKAGE AS WELL AS STATEMENTS BY STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN.

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4. VIOLENCE IN LEIRIA: ANTI-COMMUNIST VIOLENCE THAT BEGAN IN LEIRIA AUGUST 24 CULMINATED AUGUST 26 WITH FORCED EVACUATION OF PCP OFFICES AND DESTRUCTION OF OFFICES OF TWO FAR LEFT GROUPS (LCI, FEC M-1). PROFESSIONAL OFFICES OF TWO MEMBERS COMMUNIST-LINING MDP/CDE, WHOSE PARTY OFFICE WAS SACKED ON FIRST DAY OF VIOLENCE, SUFFERED SIMILAR FATE. CARS BELONGING TO KNOWN COMMUNISTS WERE BURNED, WHILE PERSONS EVACUATED FROM BESIEGED

PCP HEADQUARTERS WERE STONED. BALANCE: ONE DEAD, AT LEAST TEN SERIOUSLY INJURED.

5. COMMENT: VIOLENCE IN LEIRIA TYPIFIES TRENDS PREVIOUSLY NOTED (REF C). LEIRIA IS MAJOR URBAN CENTER OUTSIDE RURAL, PRO-CHURCH NORTH WHERE ANTI-COMMUNIST SENTIMENT HAS BEEN TRADITIONAL. INTERVENTION OF FORCES OF ORDER DID NOT PREVENT VIOLENCE. IF ANYTHING, IT SERVED ONLY TO DELAY DENOUEMENT AND INTENSIFY CROWDS' MOUNTING FURY. ATTACK AGAINST PRINCIPAL TARGET (PCP) WAS ONLY INITIALLY FRUSTRATED, ULTIMATELY SUCCEEDED, AND DURING INTERVAL CAUSED CROWDS TO TURN ATTENTIONS TO MORE VULNERABLE FAR LEFT AND FELLOW TRAVELLING TARGETS. TO DATE, ANTI-COMMUNIST SOURCES HAVE IN EVERY INSTANCE SUCCEEDED IN DESTROYING COMMUNIST HEADQUARTERS EVEN IN CASES WHERE IT HAS REQUIRED SEVERAL DAY'S EFFORT.

6. AS REFTTEL B NOTED, EFFORTS BY MELO ANTUNES GROUP TO OUST GONCALVES HAVE BEEN DEALT SETBACK. GONCALVES AND HIS SUPPORTERS HAVE STRENGTHENED THEIR POSITION AND ARE MOVING TO CONSOLIDATE GAINS OF PAST FEW DAYS. THE FORMATION OF THE REVOLUTIONARY FRONT AND THE ALMOST IMMEDIATE STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR ITS ACTIVITIES BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS INDICATES GONCALVES ET AL ARE ATTEMPTING TO LAY BASIS FOR ANOTHER LURCH TO THE LEFT AS WAY OUT OF CURRENT CRISIS. THE MELO ANTUNES "MODERATES" EVEN WITHOUT ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF FABIAO AND OTELO ARE STILL IN THE GAME. BUT, GONCALVES AND THOSE ON THE LEFT WHO HAVE RALLIED AROUND HIM HAVE RECAPTURED THE INITIATIVE.
CARLUCCI

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED.

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